

Analysis of Variance – December 2nd 2009

Overall Goal:

To review the curriculum throughout the school over three years with the goal of improving pupil's achievement.

Sub goals 2009:

To improve the exposure to science, maths, physical education and health activities by pupils.

To review the educational requirements of boys

Our overall goal of reviewing the curriculum has taken a new turn with the staff using the school's WikiEducator site as a tool to collaboratively place our curriculum into the public domain. To increase our proficient use of WikiEducator the staff have undergone the free on-line Content 4 Learning training. This gave us the skills necessary to edit and add content to the Wiki. This has proven to be a whole new way of working that has no precedence from within the educational sector but has gained significant recognition from the wider educational setting as ground-breaking work.

Whilst reviewing our local curriculum goals we realised that many were out of line with the new National Curriculum document and led us to wonder whether we need to adopt the new National Curriculum and use our charter goals with envirethical, progressive and open education as the lens that work the NC through.

The staff have worked on reviewing our assessment procedures with some small amendments still to be undertaken next year.

1. Science was our focus for PD with staff attending the Science Teachers Conference held in Dunedin in the April holidays. This led to science being a focus for all of term 2 with lots of experiments and hands on experiences. Term 4 has had Trisha working from Antarctica as part of her Science Teacher Fellowship which has also had a science focus. The nature table is slowly taking shape and we now need to undergo a stock take of science equipment that we have and need.
2. Maths remains a focus with the school with little time spent in this area due to such a commitment to science and the huge turmoil of working in a school building site. We have managed to sort out many of our maths resources.
3. PE and health have seen significant changes this year with pupils from Warrington representing the school at Otago Championships in swimming and athletics. Staff had PD in swimming and athletics and we have been better organised with skills development prior to events. Wendy's mid-year survey gave a clear mandate of what sports the school should be promoting and with the development of the court area this will have a greater impact next year.
4. We are using more health specialists (RTLB, Health Nurse, Paediatrician) to assist with issues that are impacting on learning for some pupils.
5. Boys education has seen Wendy attend a boys education seminar with Joseph Driessen (leading international educator in boys' education), purchasing of "Educating Boys" a book by Michael Irwin and staff discussions has led to subsequent changes in class programmes to greater accommodate boys. Evidence from school assessment and anecdotal evidence seen in playground games would indicate that our boys needs are being better met. Here are some of the strategies we are using:
 - More space – high levels of energy
 - Don't have children (boys) sitting for long periods of time
 - More and often physical activity opportunities
 - Teachers talking only what is needed
 - Offer a wider choice of books and writing topics that interest boys
 - Routines
 - Lots of praise
 - Kindness – smiles, pats on shoulder
 - Strictness – when a boy is doing something wrong discreetly point it out and suggest a better way
 - More tactile opportunities – hands on activities
 - Awareness of learning styles – kinaesthetic, tactile, visual etc
 - Computer use for more curriculum areas

- Time for talk
- Mixing boys and girls for classroom activities, they are constantly learning skills for interacting positively and respectfully with girls
- Allow boys to talk about books
- Being flexible
- Varying working styles to include, whole class, group and paired work
- Rough and tumble allowed and monitored
- Be sensitive towards boys who find literacy and numeracy challenging, and seek out their other “talents” to build self esteem and confidence.
- Visual cues on the whiteboard to refer back to
- Having males sharing and discussing books, authors, illustrations (book club)
- Encouraging boys to be involved with performing arts – dance, drama, singing, music
- EOTC experiences that allow boys to have leadership roles

We still need to work on boys inclusion into extra-curricular activities and look further at using reader/writers for assessment tasks for children who have problems with reading (usually boys with Dyslexia).

Assessment results from standardised tests and class samples would indicate that we continue to have very able readers, most children working at their ability level in maths but a we need to work on some writing strategies in the mid-senior end of the school.

Interesting results from the senior class where standardised testing at the beginning of the year with reading had one boy achieving a stanine 9 and at the end of the year we had 4.

With the library finally weeded of all its tatty and out of date books and the Blueskin bay Library car bringing a wonderful selection of hand picked books and the once a month book club these would also be significant factors to this positive trend.

All pupils identified as falling below in our assessment data will be monitored next year and all will have their parents notified of where their children are working and what we intend to do to remedy the situation.

Goals for 2010:

Reviewing maths and the arts and more work with writing in the senior level of the school.

Teachers and pupils to learn about learning styles.

EOTC review with the new EOTC guidelines documents.

Envirethical, progressive and open education reworked as school lens for using the National Curriculum.

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